

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15, 22-27, 29-31 and 49-57 are currently pending in the present application.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the drainage and retention aid includes at least 0.001% by weight, based on dry stock substance, of an anionic microparticulate material. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 9, line 1-7 and page 13, lines 18-20. As such, no new matter has been added.

Claim 8 has been amended to be consistent with amended claim 1. Again, no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application, including claims 1-4, 6-13, 15, 22-27, 29-31 and 49-57, is in proper form for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If resolution of any remaining issue is required prior to allowance of the application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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